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LETTER DATED 29 JANUARY 1996 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter dated 28 January 1996 addressed to you by Mr. Mohammed Said al-Sahaf, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Nizar HAMDOON
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

96-01874 (E) 300196 300196 310196

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Annex

Letter dated 28 January 1996 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq addressed to the President of the Security Council

I wish to refer to our letter of 8 July 1995, in which I gave detailed information on the hostile and provocative actions undertaken by United States and other war-planes while violating Iraqi airspace from bases in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait. The letter also listed similar actions by United States warships inside the territorial waters of Iraq during the period from 1 January to 30 June 1995.

I should like in this letter to alert you to the fact that, during the period from 1 July to 31 December 1995, United States and other war-planes and warships continued to violate Iraq's airspace and waters. They engaged in such hostile and provocative actions as breaking the sound barrier over civilian sites, dropping heat flares over agricultural land and intercepting and provoking Iraqi civilian vessels. These incidents, examples of which are set forth hereunder, were reported and documented by the competent Iraqi authorities at the time they occurred.

1. On 7 August 1995 a patrol flying the United States flag entered Iraqi territorial waters and reconnoitred the area bounded by Mina al-Bakr, Mina al-Amiq, the Shatt al-Arab and Khawr Abd Allah. At 0950 hours on 8 August 1995 the patrol lowered a rubber boat manned by three frogmen, who reconnoitred the area. Two United States Navy helicopters were sighted at the same time.

2. At 0900 hours on 9 August 1995 a cruiser flying the British flag and bearing the number 060 entered, at low speed, the area bounded by Mina al-Bakr and Mina al-Amiq, inside Iraqi territorial waters.

3. At 1045 hours on 5 October 1995 a United States aircraft dropped 10 heat flares near the town of Tall Kayf in Ninawa Governorate, northern Iraq.

4. At 1450 hours on 8 October 1995 a United States two-aircraft formation broke the sound barrier over the city of Nasiriyah, southern Iraq.

5. At 1236 hours on 10 October 1995, a United States formation dropped 10 heat flares over sites 25 kilometres south of Dohuk and three kilometres south of the lake formed by Saddam Dam in Ninawa Governorate.

6. On 15 October 1995 United States aircraft broke the sound barrier over the Kharanij area of the southern desert in Muthanna Governorate, while citizens were casting their votes at the referendum centre.

7. At 1330 hours on 26 October 1995 British frigate No. 89 lowered its boat, manned by four officers and three non-commissioned officers, all bearing weapons. They boarded the Iraqi tug Dimashq, which was moored 0.2 miles west of Mina al-Bakr, inside Iraqi territorial waters, and interrogated the vessel's captain for one half hour.

8. At 1412 hours on 14 December 1995 a United States war-plane formation broke the sound barrier over the city of Samawah in Muthanna Governorate, southern Iraq. The formation flew repeated missions over residential quarters for a number of days: in breaking the sound barrier, it shattered the windows of homes and other civilian buildings in the Governorate.

9. At 0910 hours on 18 December 1995 a United States war-plane formation broke the sound barrier over the city of Umm Qasr. The aircraft then flew further into Iraq, in the direction of Mina Khawr al-Zubayr, causing various incidents of damage.

Just as we condemn these acts of aggression and provocation by the United States and others, we also call upon the States concerned, together with Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, to halt these violations. We hold them fully responsible for their complicity in the perpetration of such acts of aggression against Iraq; and we hold them internationally responsible for compensation for all the serious physical damage which their actions have caused and continue to cause, as well as for the threats of a security-related, economic, political and moral nature that they pose to Iraq and the Iraqi people.

(Signed) Mohammed Said AL-SAHAF
Minister for Foreign Affairs
of the Republic of Iraq